Pak Preparedness for high altitude warfare

3387. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Hindu" dated 13th March 2000 captioned "Pak gearing for high altitude warfare";

(b) whether Pakistan has brought special clothing and equipment from Europe to push in an army battalion in high altitude areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the media reports regarding Pakistan having acquired special clothing/equipments over all above its normal requirements.

All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and all necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to thwart any attempt of misadventure by Pakistan.

Workshop facilities on coast guard HQs

3388. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coast Guard headquarters have workshop facilities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these facilities are not adequate;

(c) whether through an extra expenditure of Rs. 1.40 crores was incurred for offloading repair task to HAL; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The workshop for repair of Super Marec Radars at Coast Guard Air Station (CGAS), Daman was commissioned in March, 1998 and has adequate facilities. The expenditure of Rs. 1.40 crores incurred for off-loading the repairable items to M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. pertains to the period prior to the commissioning of Radar Workshop Facility at CGAS, Daman.